

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method for efficiently managing data channels in a network such as a network implementing the commercially-available Media Oriented System Transport or Media Oriented Synchronous Transfer (MOST) network standard. A network implemented in accordance with the present invention optimally utilizes the limited number of data channels available on the network by assigning to a new connection a data channel that is currently assigned to another connection. This results in data channels having multiple assignments and occupations, increasing the transmission capacity of the network without increasing the total number of implemented data channels.

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